

A

# REVIEW

OF THE

## Affairs of *FRANCE*:

With Observations on TRANSACTIONS at Home.

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Thursday, August 16. 1705.

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**M**Y last Paper Considered the Pretended Grievances of the High-Church Party, and reduc'd them to three, as they stand in the *Memorial*; and I am now upon the first.

*That some of their Patriots are Turn'd out of Place, &c.*

And this they Insist upon, with the greatest Ureainels, and that in such a manner, that they ruffle the Queen for not giving Reasons, why they were Dismiss'd—

To Examine this Head a little: These Gentlemen ought to reflect, Who they were who Address'd the Queen some time ago to extend her Prerogative? Now if it be not the most Essential part of the Royal Prerogative, to have a Right of Executing the Administration of the Government, by what Instruments, Agents, and Officers Her Majesty pleases, then the Party would do well to tell us, what the Royal Prerogative *really means*?

But what if some Body else should attempt

to tell them, by way of Answer to this great Objection?

1. That the Reasons for Dismissing these Men, are so plain, that to ask the Queen to assign Reasons, was Ridiculous, and pressing Her Majesty to make a Satyr upon their *Understanding*, as their Dismissal was a Satyr upon their *Honesty*.

On this Account, I cannot but think the Gentlemen themselves would resent it, and if possible, express their Dislike, that these Men should Desire to make the Publick Acquainted with the Reasons, for which these Ministers were Dismiss'd.

It has always been Accounted, and will be so still, a Courtesy of the Court to *Drop Men easily*, to Complement them with the Civility of laying down their Places, desiring to be Dismiss'd and Excused the Fatigues of two or three thousand a Year Salary; when, indeed, the Resolution is to Entertain them no longer.

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As this is a Court Courtesie, a piece of State Civility, we never find any Great Man so foolish to return and say; *No, I'll be Turn'd out Publickly, and I Desire to know the Reason.*

But if this Civility of giving a Noble Man, or State Minister, leave to come and lay down his Office, is not for other Reasons granted, than the Custom in such Cases has been, that the Prince says or sends word to such a Person, That there is no farther Ocasion of him at Court; or, if it be an Officer that keeps any particular Signal of his Office, as Seals, &c. some Messenger is sent to him, to let him know, That His Majesty Directs him to send the said Seals, or other Signals of Service? Thus the Lords Privy-Seal, Lords Keepers, Secretaries of State, and the like, are usually Dismissed.

Now shall any of these send Word to the Sovereign; *No, I will not Deliver the Seals, till I know what are the Reasons, why the King or Queen Dislik'd my Service?* If any such Officer should act so foolishly, I will not say here what the Prince would say or do; but I may Venture to say, what the Nature of the Thing will imply, and what such a Great Man ought to say to himself, and what, without doubt, these Outed Gentlemen do say to themselves, *whatever their Memorial Writers do say for them*, viz. I did not ask Her Majesty to show any Reasons, why she Entrusted me with the Seals; And there can be no Reason for me to Dispute her Demanding them again: Her Majesty ought to have the Absolute Disposing of any of Her Servants, and Power to Determine, *when, how, and why* she shall please to Employ or Dismiss any one as Her Royal Discretion shall Dictate.

Who then are they that can Demand the Reasons, Why these Gentlemen are Dismiss'd? If not themselves, *not the Parliament* — Parliaments, or either House by themselves, have often thought fit to Address the Sovereign, to Dismiss from the Royal Presence and Council, this or that Person, they have thought fit; but no Parliament ever yet pretended to say to a King or Queen, That they *should* put this or that Person, into this or that Employment, or so

much as *I can recollect* to recommend, much less to Enquire, why this or that Person was Dismiss'd.

All this is said, not so much to Vindicate the Prerogative of the Queen, which Her Majesty has been the most moderate in Extending, of any Prince in the World; and which Her Majesty has been so wary of *attaining by*, as that such a Testimony has been seen of it in this Reign, as no Reign before can ever parallel, viz. *That a Parliament of England, should address her to Extend and take Care of her Prerogative.*

As this was done by a House of Commons, which this very Pamphlet, called *The Memorial*, says, *Was the best House of Commons ever England had*; either what this Author offers, which is Invading the Prerogative in the highest Degree, must be very much Inconsistent with Reason, or this was not the best House of Commons ever England had.

This therefore is said to let us see, how the Champions of this Scoundrel Cause Interfered with one another, and with themselves; at the same time the Queen must not suffer her Prerogative to be *Invaded*, at another time they will *Invalidate* her Prerogative *themselves*; at one time Her Majesty is not careful enough of the Royal Rights of the Crown; at another time they will Demand Reasons of her for Dismissing her own Servants, regulating her Household, &c.

But to come a step farther:

Pray, Gentlemen of the *Memorial*, why do you Demand Reasons of the Queen, for the Dismissing your Beloved Ministers of the State? Pray who would you have the Queen give the Reasons to?

1. Would you have the Reasons given to the *Persons Dismiss'd*? How do you know they were not given them? I pretend to assure you, those Gentlemen themselves will not pretend to be Ignorant of them; and I durst appeal to the D — — of B — —, E — —s of R — —, N — —, D — —, Sir G — — R — —, Sir E — —, and the rest of those Gentlemen, who, I believe, have more Dury for the Queen, than to say, they do not know why Her Majesty Dismiss'd them.

2. Would you have the Nation know the Reasons? Really the Gentlemen themselves are

are very little beholden to you for that— But where do you live Gentlemen? Who do you converse with? That you should be Ignorant of these Things? The Reasons were plain, these Gentlemen Dismiss'd themselves; and in as plain Language as that of Words, told the Queen and the Nation, They would serve no longer—— It was come to a Crisis, either they would not be Ministers of State, or the Queen must not be Queen.

Would Her Majesty preserve the Peace of her Subjects? Would the Queen preserve the Toleration, *which the Dissenters Claim not by Right only, but by Virtue of the Royal Promise, repeated upon Good Grounds*? Would Her Majesty prevent the High-flying Hopes of a Party, who Depended upon these Gentlemen for the putting all the Nation into the Extream of Party Fend, Persecution, and Confusion? —— Would Her Majesty Check that Fury that was going to Work with the State, as well as with the Dissenters *the Shortest Way*? There was then a necessity to Dismiss the Persons that could be persuaded to no other Methods, but such as were absolutely Inconsistent with that *Peace and Union*, which from very sufficient Arguments Her Majesty was Convinc'd, and all Wise Men joyn in it, was the only Safety of this Divided Nation.

Would you go any farther for Reasons of the Change of a Ministry? Really, Gentlemen, Charity for the Mistakes and Mischievous Designs, as well as blind Measures of some Gentlemen, restrains my Pen from giving you the many Substantial Reasons; which, if they are not, those that mov'd the Queen to do it, must be allow'd to be Reasons why the Nation is pleas'd, and rejoices at it.

And indeed I must be allow'd here to speak very freely on this Head; I cannot but think the whole Nation oblig'd to these Gentlemen for their Extraordinary manner of proceeding.

I must say of these Gentlemen, as the *Roman Catholics* say of the late King *James, viz.* That he was *too honest* to effect the Glorious Design he had laid of restoring the Church of *Rome* in these Nations, since had he been able to Dissemble, and proceed by

ways of Policy and good Management; had he gone on Moderately, and been content to have done it gradually, he had certainly effected it in Time, or at least brought it to such a pass, and left it in such a forwardness, that the next Age would have carried on it farther; and so Time would have brought that to pass, with Impatience and Immoderate Councils, Ruin'd and Prevented; and therefore that the *Protestants* were really beholden to the late King's Impolitick Zeal for the Overthrow of that Great Design.

Even just so, Gentlemen, had the High Churchmen acted with True Policy; had they been Content to have Suppress'd their Brethren by *the Surest*, rather than by *the Shortest Way*, they might have reduc'd the *Dissenters*; they might have suppress'd the *Laws*, they might have ruin'd the Queen, and perhaps at last have brought about that famous *Re-revolution*, we are satisfy'd they all aim at; but Thanks be to God, and their own Folly, they have struck the Stroke themselves, they have Overturn'd all the Fabrick of their High-Church Policy, by their Unseasonable, *yet to us very seasonable* Heat. From hence a very Wise Gentleman of their own Party, exclaiming at the Folly; *Ab, (says he) 'tis not that the Whigs are Wise, but we are Fools; we thought to have Ruin'd them, and we have ruin'd our selves.*

The whole Nation therefore ought to applaud these Gentlemen for the Profundity of their Wisdom, in attempting to make that fly, which had no Wings; for going on with the Structure, before they laid the Foundation; for pushing without their proportion of Strength, thinking to do that Work with their Tongues, which requir'd their Hands.

If these Gentlemen thought to do the Work by these hasty Discoveries of their Methods and Temper, they must come under some Scandal in their Discretion—— But, I confess, I would forbear to Censure their Folly, because nothing else could have sav'd us from the Mischief of their Designs.

On this very Score, I would be glad to see the *Memorial* Treated in the following Manner by the Government.

That

That a hundred Thousand of them should be Printed and Dispers'd all over England, with only this Remark on them.

" That this being a Malicious Seditious Book, Publish'd to bring the Government into Contempt, Her Majesty had order'd it to be Publish'd; that all her Subjects might see the Temper of the Party, and the Exceeding Correspondence that there is between their Principles of Loyalty formerly pretended to, and their present Practice.

In short, That the Eyes of the Nation might be Open'd to see who it is the present Danger of the Church is from; and if any Rebellion or Commotion should happen, who the People ought to call to Account for it.

Just Publish'd,

THE *Appendix to the Review*; Together with an *Index* of the First Volume; which Compleats the said First Volume of the *Reviews*: And all those Gentlemen, who have bespoke of the Author, the said First Volume Entire, may have them Deliver'd, Bound up together with all the *Supplements*, at *J. Matthews's*, or at the Publishers of the *Review*.

WHEREAS a Proposal has been made by the Author of this Paper, for Subscriptions to a Book in Folio, Entitled, *Jure Divino*; or, *A Satyr upon Tyranny and Passive Obedience*. To which, Abundance of Gentlemen having long since Subscrib'd, and the Time seeming long for its coming out, some very Good Reasons having oblig'd the Author to put a stop to it,

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All those Gentlemen, who have Collected Subscriptions for this Book are Desir'd to send in an Account of what Number they have taken, there being no more to be Printed, than shall be given Notice as Subscribed; and, if they please, to Pay the Subscription Money to

*Mr. Matthews, in Pilkington Court, Little Britain,* Receipts will be given there for it:

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